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INFORMATIONAL LETTER #2003-01

DATE: January 13, 2003

TO: ALL IDAHO NURSING FACILITIES

FROM: DEBBY RANSOM, R.N., R.H.I.T., Chief

Bureau of Facility Standards

SUBJECT: POSTING THE LIFE SAFETY CODE SURVEY

Sometime during the Fall of 2002, Long Term Care surveyors reported that they had been instructed by a federal surveyor that the Life Safety Code (LSC) survey must be posted along with the health survey and complaint surveys. This agency has not surveyed for this in the past. To validate that this was indeed the federal expectation, we posed the question to CMS Region X in Seattle. Below you will see an excerpt from the response we received.

Thank you for referring this challenging question to me. I believe that when facilities are required at F167 to post a notice and make the most recent survey available to residents, this means the most recent initial survey, or the most recent complaint survey. Included in the most recent initial survey and most recent recertification survey is the LSC. If the complaint survey is a complaint survey measuring the LSC, it would include that. My reference is 42 CFR 488.110(a) which states: "A complete SNF/ICF facility survey consists of three components: LSC requirements; Administrative and structural requirements....; and Direct resident care requirements...."

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With this federal guidance in mind, this agency will begin to check the survey posting with the expectation that the LSC survey will be posted along with the other required surveys. This will begin effective with the date of this letter.

If you have any questions about this information, please contact Loretta Todd, R.N., or Diana Gassel, R.N., Co-Supervisors of the Long Term Care unit of this Bureau at 208/334-6626.

[original signed by Debby Ransom]

DEBBY RANSOM, R.N., R.H.I.T., Chief Bureau of Facility Standards

DR/nah

cc: Idaho Health Care Association